

SENATE BILL 3259  
By Burchett

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 44,  
Chapter 6, Part 1, relative to commercial feed.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 44-6-103, is amended by adding the following as new, appropriately designated subdivisions:

( ) "BSE" means bovine spongiform encephalopathy;

( ) "Covered article" means:

(A) Feed for an animal;

(B) A nutritional supplement for an animal;

(C) Medicine for an animal; or

(D) Any other article of a kind that is ordinarily ingested, implanted, or otherwise taken into an animal.

( ) "Covered article" does not include:

(A) An unprocessed agricultural commodity that is readily identifiable as non-animal in origin, such as vegetable, grain or nut;

(B) An article described in the meaning of "covered article" herein that, based on compelling scientific evidence, the commissioner determines does not pose a risk of transmitting prion disease; or

( ) "Unspecified risk material" means:

(A) The skull, brain, trigeminal ganglia, eyes, tonsils, spinal cord, vertebral column or dorsal root ganglia of:

(i) Cattle and bison; or

(ii) Sheep, goats, deer and elk.

(B) The intestinal tract of a ruminant of any age; and

(C) Any other material of a ruminant that may carry a prion disease, as determined by the commissioner, based on scientifically credible research.

( ) "Prion" means a microscopic protein particle similar to a virus but lacking nucleic acid; the infectious agent responsible for scrapie and certain other degenerative diseases of the nervous system.

( ) "Ruminant" means any member of the order of animals which has a stomach with four chambers (rumen, reticulum, omasum, and abomasum) through which feed passes in digestion. The order includes, but is not limited to, cattle, buffalo, sheep, goats, deer, elk, and antelopes.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 44, Chapter 6, Part 1, is amended by adding a new section thereto, as follows:

Section 44-6-116. Notwithstanding any provision of §44-6-107 to the contrary, it is unlawful for any person to feed a covered article to animals if the covered article contains:

(1)

(A) Specified risk material from a ruminant; or

(B) Any material from a ruminant that:

(i) Was in any foreign country at a time at which there was a risk of transmission of BSE in the country; and

(ii) May contain specified risk material from a ruminant.

(2) Any material from a ruminant exhibiting signs of a neurological disease.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect January 1, 2007, the public welfare requiring it.